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Akihisa Sato

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ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER

ADAMS, CHARLES D

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/811,878

Applicant(s)

SATO ET AL.

Examiner

Charles D. Adams

Art Unit

2164

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 September 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 4-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) 1, 4-10 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Remarks

1. In response to communications filed on 14 September 2007, claims 1, 5-7, 9, and 10 are amended. Claims 1 and 4-10 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 1, 5-7, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "Wherein in case there is no current amount of data available to said application whose estimated amount of data needs to be calculated, said estimated load calculation section calculates the estimated amount of data by using a current amount of data of said application having an approximate current amount of data". This limitation is unclear and indefinite. It is a conditional limitation that operates when "there is no current amount of data available to said application". However, to calculate an estimated amount of data, the limitation uses "a current amount of data of said application having an approximate current amount of data". It is unclear how the limitation can operate, since the limitation only works when "there is no current amount of data available to said application", yet to calculate estimated data, "a current amount of data of said application" is used.

Art Unit: 2164

Claims 5-7 and 9 recite this limitation as well, and are unclear for the same reasons.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1 and 4-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chambliss et al. (US Pre-Grant Publication 2004/0003087) in view of Donze et al. (US Pre-Grant Publication 2004/0054782), and further in view of Sekijima et al. (US Patent 6,957,429).

As to claim 1, Chambliss et al. teaches:

An information processing apparatus which is used to operate a plurality of applications to request data input/output to/from a storage (see paragraph [0044]);

Chambliss et al. does not explicitly teach wherein said storage comprises at least one port

Donze et al. teaches explicitly wherein said storage comprises at least one port (see paragraph [0035] and Figure 2)

Chambliss et al. as modified teaches and at least one array group including a plurality of disk units (see Chambliss et al. paragraph [0044] and Donze et al. paragraph [0035] and Figure 1);

Wherein said information processing apparatus accesses, via said at least one port, a virtual area provided by said at least one array group (see Chambliss et al. paragraph [0048] and Donze et al. paragraph [0034] and Figure 2. A virtual area is created by the RAID group);

Wherein said storage and said information processing apparatus constitute an access process section for processing an access request from an application (see Chambliss et al. paragraph [0044]-[0047]);

Wherein said access process section includes at least one port and said at least one array group (see Donze et al. Figure 6 and paragraph [0054]-[0055]);

Wherein said information processing apparatus comprises an access monitoring section which monitors an access request for each of said applications (see Chambliss et al. paragraphs [0046] and [0082]-[0083]); and

Wherein said management host comprises:

An acceptance section which accepts specification of a new application (see Chambliss et al. paragraph [0083]);

A current load calculation section which calculates current amount of data accessed from said application to said storage for each of said applications based on information obtained by said access monitoring section (see Chambliss et al. paragraph [0091] and Donze et al. paragraph [0055])

An estimated load calculation section which calculates each of an estimated amount of data accessed from said application to said storage in said port (see Donze et al. paragraphs [0054] and [0062]) and an estimated amount of data in said array group, in case of addition of said new application based on current amount of data calculated by said current load calculation section and based on information obtained by said access monitoring section (see Chambliss et al. paragraphs [0063]-[0071].

Configuration rates can be set that limit “amounts of data” or rates of data transfer. Also see paragraph [0075] and [0082]-[0083]. “The balance vector value of a service class denotes a level of credit defining how much usage of the associated resource can be performed immediately without causing the usage limit to be exceeded. A request is admitted into servicing by the storage system only when the balance vector values exceed the predicated resource usage of that request, and for each request that is admitted into serving, the balance vector values are reduced by the request’s resource usage”, paragraph [0082]),

Wherein in case there is no current amount of data available to said application whose estimated amount of data needs to be calculated, said estimated load calculation section calculates the estimated amount of data by using a current amount of data of said application having an approximate current amount of data (see Donze et al. paragraph [0059]-[0060]. There is no current amount of data available, so Donze et al. accesses agents that computer the estimated amount of data by gathering information from components along the data path (Figure 7, element 136)); and

A load data output section which outputs each of the estimated amount of data in said port (see Donze et al. paragraphs [0055]-[0066])

Chambliss et al. as modified does not explicitly teach and the estimated amount of data in said array group calculated by said estimated load calculation section.

Sekijima et al. teaches and the estimated amount of data in said array group calculated by said estimated load calculation section (see 3:53-59),

Chambliss et al. as modified teaches wherein in case said information processing apparatus accesses, via a specific port, said virtual area provided by said array group corresponding to said specific port (see Sekijima et al. 6:45-52), said load data output section outputs a combination of ports and array groups (see Sekijima et al. Figure 1 and 11:35-55. A user may access a specific storage system (service management unit 201), which then can report server usage information on other servers. A storage system is a 'combination of ports and array groups', as it contains both ports and array groups. See Sekijima et al. Figure 1 (the servers are connected to a network and thus need ports) and Chambliss et al. paragraph [0044] (storage systems can have multiple drives)).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Chambliss et al. by the teaching of Donze et al., since Donze et al. teaches that "Further, by stitching and mapping the components of both the application and storage domain, the components may be included in a comprehensive risk analysis, performance evaluation, and modeling and simulation for system upgrading" (see paragraph [0006]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have further modified Chambliss et al. by the teaching of Sekijima et al., since Sekijima et al. teaches that “the present invention presents users with a list of applicable services dynamically updated and enables the users to specify selective combinations of the services. Thereby, the present invention provides service users with the easy recognition of applicable services, flexible selection of services to meet users’ purposes, and smooth application of selected services to relevant data” (see 2:47-53). In addition to this, it is well known in the art to output data that has been calculated by a method.

As to claim 4, Chambliss et al. as modified teaches:

Wherein each of said port and said array group includes a plurality of configurations having similar functions (see Donze et al. Figures 1 and 6 and Chambliss et al. paragraphs [0076]-[0077]);

Wherein said configurations for said at least one port and said at least one array group comprise a configuration information storage section which stores information about available combinations capable of processing said access request (see Chambliss et al. paragraphs [0063]-[0071], [0073]-[0075], and [0107]-[0109]); and

Wherein said estimated load calculation section calculates estimated amount of data with respect to said available combinations of said configurations for said at least one port and said at least one array group (see Chambliss et al. paragraph [0082]-[0083]).

As to claim 5, Chambliss et al. teaches:

A storage which stores a database (see paragraph [0044] and [0058]-[0060].

There is information stored by address, therefore, the storage is a database)

Chambliss et al. does not explicitly teach and comprises at least one port

Donze et al. teaches and comprises at least one port (see paragraph [0035] and Figure 2);

Chambliss et al. as modified teaches and at least one array group including a plurality of disk units (see Chambliss et al. paragraph [0044] and Donze et al. paragraph [0035] and Figure 1);

A plurality of information processing apparatuses which are used to operate an application requesting data input/output to/from said storage and access, via said at least one port, a virtual area provided by said at least one array group (see paragraph [0044] and Figure 2. Also see Donze et al. Figure 1 and paragraph [0026]); and

A management host which manages said storage (see Chambliss et al. paragraphs [0063]-[0071], [0075], and [0082]-[0083]),

Wherein each of said information processing apparatuses comprises:

A database management system which processes an access request from said application to said database and includes said at least one port and said at least one array group (see Chambliss et al. paragraph [0044]-[0047] and Donze et al. Figure 6 and paragraphs [0054]-[0055]);

An access monitoring section which monitors an access request sent from said application to said database management system and obtains information about said access request (see Chambliss et al. paragraphs [0046] and [0082]-[0083]); and

An access information output section which collects information about said access request and adds up said information correspondingly to said application (see Chambliss et al. paragraph [0044]-[0046] and [0083]), and

Wherein said management host comprises:

An acceptance section which accepts specification of a new application (see Chambliss et al. paragraph [0083]);

A current load calculation section which calculates current amount of data accessed from said application to said storage for each of said applications based on information obtained by said access monitoring section (see Chambliss et al. paragraph [0091] and Donze et al. paragraph [0055]);

An estimated load calculation section which calculates each of an estimated amount of data accessed from said application to said storage in said port (see Donze et al. paragraphs [0054] and [0062]) and an estimated amount of data in said array group, calculated by said current load calculation section and based on information obtained by said access monitoring section (see Chambliss et al. paragraphs [0063]-[0071]. Also see paragraph [0075] and [0082]-[0083]),

Wherein in case there is no current amount of data available to said application whose estimated amount of data needs to be calculated, said estimated load calculation section calculates the estimated amount of data by using current amount of data of said

application having an approximate current amount of data (see Donze et al. paragraph [0059]-[0060]). There is no current amount of data available, so Donze et al. accesses agents that computer the estimated amount of data by gathering information from components along the data path (Figure 7, element 136));

A load data output section which outputs each of the estimated amount of data in said port (see Donze et al. paragraphs [0055]-[0066])

Chambliss et al. does not explicitly teach and the estimated amount of data in said array group calculated by said estimated load calculation section;

Sekijima et al. teaches and the estimated amount of data in said array group calculated by said estimated load calculation section (see 3:53-59),

Chambliss et al. as modified teaches wherein in case said information processing apparatus accesses, via a specific port, said virtual area provided by said array group corresponding to said specific pot, said load data output section outputs a combination of available ports and array groups (see Sekijima et al. Figure 1 and 11:35-55 and Chambliss et al. paragraph [0044]); and

a configuration setup section which sets up a change in configuration of said storage based on the estimated amount of data calculated by said estimated load calculation section (see Chambliss et al. paragraphs [0082]-[0083]. The amount of available storage will be changed upon the addition of a new program based on the estimated cost of that program).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Chambliss et al. by the teaching of

Donze et al., since Donze et al. teaches that “Further, by stitching and mapping the components of both the application and storage domain, the components may be included in a comprehensive risk analysis, performance evaluation, and modeling and simulation for system upgrading” (see paragraph [0006]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have further modified Chambliss et al. by the teaching of Sekijima et al., since Sekijima et al. teaches that “the present invention presents users with a list of applicable services dynamically updated and enables the users to specify selective combinations of the services. Thereby, the present invention provides service users with the easy recognition of applicable services, flexible selection of services to meet users’ purposes, and smooth application of selected services to relevant data” (see 2:47-53). In addition to this, it is well known in the art to output data that has been calculated by a method.

As to claim 6, Chambliss et al. teaches:

A storage which stores a file (see paragraph [0044] and [0058]-[0060])

Chambliss et al. does not explicitly teach and comprises at least one port

Donze et al. teaches and comprises at least one port (see paragraph [0035] and Figure 2)

Chambliss et al. as modified teaches and at least one array group including a plurality of disk units (see Chambliss et al. paragraph [0044] and Donze et al. paragraph [0035] and Figure 1);

A plurality of information processing apparatuses which are used to operate an application requesting input/output of data stored in a file to/from said storage and access, via said at least one port, a virtual area provided by said at least one array group (see paragraph [0044] and Figure 2. Also see Donze et al. Figure 1 and paragraph [0026]; and

A management host which manages said storage (see Chambliss et al. paragraphs [0063]-[0071], [0075], and [0082]-[0083]),

Wherein each of said information processing apparatuses comprises:

A file system which processes an access request from said application to said file and includes said at least one port and said at least one array group (see Chambliss et al. paragraph [0044]-[0047] and Donze et al. Figure 6 and paragraphs [0054]-[0055]);

An access monitoring section which monitors an access request sent from said file system to said storage and obtains information about said access request (see Chambliss et al. paragraphs [0046] and [0082]-[0083]); and

An access information output section which collects information about said access request and adds up said information correspondingly to said application (see Chambliss et al. paragraph [0044]-[0046] and [0083]),

wherein said management host comprises:

an acceptance section which accepts specification of a new application (see Chambliss et al. paragraph [0083]);

a current load calculation section which calculates current amount of data for each of said applications based on information obtained by said access monitoring section (see Chambliss et al. paragraph [0091] and Donze et al. paragraph [0055]);

an estimated load calculation section which calculates each of an estimated amount of data accessed from said application to said storage in said port (see Donze et al. paragraphs [0054] and [0062]) and an estimated amount of data in said array group, in case of addition of said new application based on current amount of data calculated by said current load calculation section and based on information obtained by said access monitoring section (see Chambliss et al. paragraphs [0063]-[0071]. Also see paragraph [0075] and [0082]-[0083]),

wherein in case there is no current amount of data available to said application whose estimated amount of data needs to be calculated, said estimated load calculation section calculates the estimated amount of data by using a current amount of data of said application having an approximate current amount of data (see Donze et al. paragraph [0059]-[0060]. There is no current amount of data available, so Donze et al. accesses agents that computer the estimated amount of data by gathering information from components along the data path (Figure 7, element 136));

a load data output section which outputs the estimated amount of data in said port (see Donze et al. paragraphs [0055]-[0066])

Chambliss et al. does not explicitly teach and the estimated amount of data in said array group calculated by said estimated load calculation section; and

Sekijima et al. teaches and the estimated amount of data in said array group calculated by said estimated load calculation section (see 3:53-59),

Chambliss et al. as modified teaches wherein in case said information processing application accesses, via a specific port, said virtual area provided by said array group corresponding to said specific port, said load data output section outputs a combination of available ports and array groups (see Sekijima et al. Figure 1 and 11:35-55 and Chambliss et al. paragraph [0044]); and

a configuration setup section which sets up a change in configuration of said storage based on estimated amount of data calculated by said estimated load calculation section (see Chambliss et al. paragraphs [0082]-[0083]. The amount of available storage will be changed upon the addition of a new program based on the estimated cost of that program).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Chambliss et al. by the teaching of Donze et al., since Donze et al. teaches that "Further, by stitching and mapping the components of both the application and storage domain, the components may be included in a comprehensive risk analysis, performance evaluation, and modeling and simulation for system upgrading" (see paragraph [0006]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have further modified Chambliss et al. by the teaching of Sekijima et al., since Sekijima et al. teaches that "the present invention presents users with a list of applicable services dynamically updated and enables the users to

Art Unit: 2164

specify selective combinations of the services. Thereby, the present invention provides service users with the easy recognition of applicable services, flexible selection of services to meet users' purposes, and smooth application of selected services to relevant data" (see 2:47-53). In addition to this, it is well known in the art to output data that has been calculated by a method.

As to claim 7, Chambliss et al. teaches a control method of an information processing system, the system comprising an information processing apparatus which is used to operate a plurality of applications to request data input/output to/from a storage and a management host which manages said storage (see paragraph [0044]),

Chambliss et al. does not explicitly teach wherein said storage comprises at least one port;

Donze et al. teaches wherein said storage comprises at least one port (see paragraph [0035] and Figure 2)

Chambliss et al. as modified teaches and at least one array group including a plurality of disk units (see Chambliss et al. paragraph [0044] and Donze et al. paragraph [0035] and Figure 1),

Wherein said information processing apparatus accesses, via said at least one port, a virtual area provided by said at least one array group(see Chambliss et al. paragraph [0048] and Donze et al. paragraph [0034] and Figure 2. A virtual area is created by the RAID group),

Said method comprises the steps of:

Monitoring an access request from each of said applications (see Chambliss et al. paragraphs [0046] and [0082]-[0083]);

Obtaining information about said access request for each of said applications (see Chambliss et al. paragraphs [0046] and [0082]-[0083]);

Calculating current amount of data accessed from each of said applications to said storage for each of said applications, in case of addition of said new application based on information about said obtained access request (see Chambliss et al. paragraph [0091] and Donze et al. paragraph [0055])

Accepting specification of a new application (see Chambliss et al. paragraph [0083]);

Calculating estimated amount of data accessed from each of said applications to said storage for each said applications, in case of addition of said new application based on information about said obtained access request (see Chambliss et al. paragraphs [0082]-[0083]);

Calculating the estimated amount of data by using a current amount of data of said application having an approximate current amount of data, in case there is no current amount of data available to said application whose estimated amount of data needs to be calculated (see Donze et al. paragraph [0059]-[0060]. There is no current amount of data available, so Donze et al. accesses agents that computer the estimated amount of data by gathering information from components along the data path (Figure 7, element 136));

Calculating each of an estimated amount of data in said port (see Donze et al. paragraphs [0054] and [0062]) and an estimated amount of data in said array group in case of addition of said new application based on said calculated current data and information about said obtained access request (see Chambliss et al. teaches paragraphs [0063]-[0071]. Also see paragraph [0075] and [0082]-[0083]);

Outputting said calculated each of the estimated amount of data in said port (see Donze et al. paragraphs [0055]-[0066]) and

Chambliss et al. as modified does not teach and the estimated amount of data in array group

Sekijima et al. teaches and the estimated amount of data in array group (see 3:53-59); and

Chambliss et al. as modified teaches:

Outputting a combination of available ports and array groups, in case said information processing apparatus accesses, via a specific port, said virtual area provided by an array group corresponding to said specific port (see Sekijima et al. Figure 1 and 11:35-55 and Chambliss et al. paragraph [0044]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Chambliss et al. by the teaching of Donze et al., since Donze et al. teaches that "Further, by stitching and mapping the components of both the application and storage domain, the components may be included in a comprehensive risk analysis, performance evaluation, and modeling and simulation for system upgrading" (see paragraph [0006]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have further modified Chambliss et al. by the teaching of Sekijima et al., since Sekijima et al. teaches that “the present invention presents users with a list of applicable services dynamically updated and enables the users to specify selective combinations of the services. Thereby, the present invention provides service users with the easy recognition of applicable services, flexible selection of services to meet users’ purposes, and smooth application of selected services to relevant data” (see 2:47-53). In addition to this, it is well known in the art to output data that has been calculated by a method.

As to claim 8, Chambliss et al. as modified teaches wherein said estimated amount of data is calculated in case of addition of a new application for each of said at least one port and said at least one array group to process in series and said access request and for available combinations of configurations of said at least one port and said at least one array group (see Chambliss et al. paragraphs [0044]-[0046]. The access process section can include the storage drives, and the gateways. Also see paragraphs [0088] and [0089]. Requests can be added to a delay queue, and processed ‘in series’ that way).

As to claim 9, Chambliss et al. teaches a machine readable medium tangibly embodying at least one sequence of instruction for +calculating load data in an information processing system, the system comprising an information processing

apparatus which is used to operate a plurality of applications to request data input/output to/from a storage and a management host which manages said storage (see paragraph [0044]-[0046] and [0083]),

Chambliss et al. does not explicitly teach wherein said storage comprises at least one port

Donze et al. teaches wherein said storage comprises at least one port (see paragraph [0035] and Figure 2)

Chambliss et al. as modified teaches and at least one array group including a plurality of disk units (see Chambliss et al. paragraph [0044] and Donze et al. paragraph [0035] and Figure 1),

Wherein said information processing apparatus accesses, via said at least one port, a virtual area provided by said at least one array group (see Chambliss et al. paragraph [0048] and Donze et al. paragraph [0034] and Figure 2. A virtual area is created by the RAID group),

Wherein the sequence of instruction, when executed, causes the management host to: (see Chambliss et al. paragraph [0044]-[0046] and [0083])

monitor an access request from said application and obtaining information about said access request for each of said applications (see Chambliss et al. paragraphs [0046] and [0082]-[0083]);

calculate current amount of data accessed from said application to said storage for each of said applications based on information about said obtained access request (see Chambliss et al. paragraph [0091] and Donze et al. paragraph [0055]);

accept specification of a new application (see Chambliss et al. paragraph [0083]);

calculate an estimated amount of data accessed from said application to said storage for each of said applications, in case of addition of said new application based on information about said obtained access request (see Chambliss et al. paragraphs [0082]-[0083]);

calculate the estimated amount of data by using a current amount of data of said application having an approximate current amount of data, in case there is no current amount of data available to said application whose estimated amount of data needs to be calculated (see Donze et al. paragraph [0059]-[0060]. There is no current amount of data available, so Donze et al. accesses agents that computer the estimated amount of data by gathering information from components along the data path (Figure 7, element 136));

calculate each of an estimated amount of data in said port (see Donze et al. paragraphs [0054] and [0062]) and an estimated amount of data in said array group in case of addition of said new application based on said calculated current amount of data and information about said obtained access request (see Chambliss et al. teaches paragraphs [0063]-[0071]. Also see paragraph [0075] and [0082]-[0083]); and

output said calculated estimated amount of data in said port (see Donze et al. paragraphs [0055]-[0066]) and

Chambliss et al. does not teach and said estimated amount of data in said array group.

Sekijima et al. teaches and said estimated amount of data in said array group (see 3:53-59); and

Chambliss et al. as modified teaches:

Output a combination of available ports and array groups, in case said information processing apparatus accesses, via a specific port, said virtual area provided by an array group corresponding to said specific port (see Sekijima et al. Figure 1 and 11:35-55 and Chambliss et al. paragraph [0044]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Chambliss et al. by the teaching of Donze et al., since Donze et al. teaches that “Further, by stitching and mapping the components of both the application and storage domain, the components may be included in a comprehensive risk analysis, performance evaluation, and modeling and simulation for system upgrading” (see paragraph [0006]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have further modified Chambliss et al. by the teaching of Sekijima et al., since Sekijima et al. teaches that “the present invention presents users with a list of applicable services dynamically updated and enables the users to specify selective combinations of the services. Thereby, the present invention provides service users with the easy recognition of applicable services, flexible selection of services to meet users’ purposes, and smooth application of selected services to relevant data” (see 2:47-53). In addition to this, it is well known in the art to output data that has been calculated by a method..

As to claim 10, Chambliss et al. as modified teaches wherein said sequence of instruction that causes the management host to calculate the estimated amount of data, said sequence of instruction further causes the management host to calculate the estimated amount of data in case of addition of a new application for each of said at least one port and said at least one array group to process in series said access request and for available combinations of configurations of said at least one port and said at least one array group (see Chambliss et al. paragraphs [0044]-[0046]. The access process section can include the storage drives, and the gateways. Also see paragraphs [0088] and [0089]. Requests can be added to a delay queue, and processed 'in series' that way).

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed 14 September 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that the references of record do not teach "an estimated load calculation section which calculates each of an estimated amount of data accessed from said application to said storage in said port and an estimated amount of data in said array group, in case of addition of said new application based on current amount of data calculated by said current load calculation section and based on information obtained by said access monitoring section, wherein in case there is no current amount

of data available to said application whose estimated amount of data needs to be calculated, said estimated load calculation section calculates the estimated amount of data by using a current amount of data of said application having an approximate current amount of data".

In response to this argument, the Examiner notes that Donze et al. in view of Chambliss et al. teaches "an estimated load calculation section which calculates each of an estimated amount of data accessed from said application to said storage in said port" (see Donze et al. paragraphs [0054] and [0062]) "and an estimated amount of data in said array group, in case of addition of said new application based on current amount of data calculated by said current load calculation section and based on information obtained by said access monitoring section" (see Chambliss et al. paragraphs [0063]-[0071]. Configuration rates can be set that limit "amounts of data" or rates of data transfer. Also see paragraph [0075] and [0082]-[0083]. "The balance vector value of a service class denotes a level of credit defining how much usage of the associated resource can be performed immediately without causing the usage limit to be exceeded. A request is admitted into servicing by the storage system only when the balance vector values exceed the predicated resource usage of that request, and for each request that is admitted into serving, the balance vector values are reduced by the request's resource usage", paragraph [0082]),

As noted above in the 35 U.S.C. 112 rejection above, the last limitation is unclear, as it involves the calculation of estimated amount of data by using a current amount of data of said application when there is no current amount of data available to

said application. It appears that the limitation, upon the condition being met (when there is no current amount of data available to said application), cannot be completed as it requires the use of a current amount of data of said application. However, as pointed out above, the combined references of Chambliss et al. in view of Donze et al. teaches the above limitation to the best of the Examiner's understanding (see Donze et al. paragraph [0059]-[0060]). There is no current amount of data available because Donze et al. must access agents that computer the estimated amount of data by gathering information from components along the data path (Figure 7, element 136)).

Applicant argues that the references of record do not teach the limitation "a load data output section which outputs each of the estimated amount of data in said port and the estimated amount of data in said array group calculated by said estimated load calculation section, wherein in case said information processing apparatus accesses, via a specific port, said virtual area provided by said array group corresponding to said specific port, said load data output section outputs a combination of available ports and array groups".

In response to this argument, Examiner notes that Chambliss et al., in view of Donze et al., and further in view of Sekijima et al. teaches "A load data output section which outputs each of the estimated amount of data in said port (see Donze et al. paragraphs [0055]-[0066]) and the estimated amount of data in said array group calculated by said estimated load calculation section (see Sekijima et al. 3:53-59), wherein in case said information processing apparatus accesses, via a specific port,

said virtual area provided by said array group corresponding to said specific port (see Sekijima et al. 6:45-52. A specific server containing a service management unit is accessed), said load data output section outputs a combination of ports and array groups (see Sekijima et al. Figure 1 and 11:35-55. A user may access a specific storage system (service management unit 201), which then can report server usage information on other servers. A storage system is a 'combination of ports and array groups', as it contains both ports and array groups. See Sekijima et al. Figure 1 (the servers are connected to a network and thus need ports) and Chambliss et al. paragraph [0044] (storage systems can have multiple drives)). Therefore, Sekijima et al. teaches to access, via a specific port, a virtual area provided by a storage array, said load data output section outputting a combination of available ports and array groups. Also see Donze et al. paragraph [0060] and Figures 6-7. A user may test and output the estimated load data of a combination of available ports and storage arrays groups.

Conclusion

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

Art Unit: 2164

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charles D. Adams whose telephone number is (571) 272-3938. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM, M - F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Rones can be reached on (571) 272-4085. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.


CHARLES RONES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

CHARLES RONES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER